

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing prospectus data, comprising:
~~storing financial prospectus data on at least one electronically readable medium;~~
determining a first portion of prospectus data, wherein a printed financial prospectus
comprises the first portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;
encoding the first portion of prospectus data as a first optical bar code; and
affixing the first optical bar code to the printed financial prospectus. ~~the at least one~~
~~electronically readable medium to a printed financial prospectus, wherein the at least one~~
~~electronically readable medium comprises at least one of an optical bar code, a magnetic~~
~~strip, and an embedded computer chip; and~~
~~reading the data from the at least one electronically readable medium using a suitable~~
~~device.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
~~determining data to be stored in the at least one electronically readable medium.~~
determining a second portion of prospectus data, wherein the printed financial
prospectus comprises the second portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;
encoding the second portion of prospectus data as a second optical bar code; and
affixing the second optical bar code to the printed financial prospectus.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising storing the~~
~~data~~ wherein the first optical bar code stores the first portion of prospectus data in a summary
format.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising storing the~~
~~data~~ wherein the first optical bar code stores the first portion of prospectus data in a
standardized format.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein:
the first optical bar code stores a first category of information associated with the
printed financial prospectus; and

the second optical bar code stores a second category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus, wherein the first category of information is different from the second category of information.

~~data comprises at least one category of data, the method further comprising utilizing a separate electronically readable medium of the at least one electronically readable medium for separate storage of each data category.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
encrypting the first portion of prospectus data in conjunction with encoding the first portion of prospectus data as the first optical bar code.

~~encrypting the data prior to storing in the at least one electronically readable medium;~~
and

~~utilizing decryption computer software after reading for decryption of the data.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one electronically readable medium~~ first optical bar code is affixed to a cover of the printed financial prospectus.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for prospectus data management, comprising:
~~at least one electronically readable medium that stores financial prospectus data, wherein the at least one electronically readable medium comprises at least one of an optical bar code, a magnetic strip, and an embedded computer chip;~~

a printed financial prospectus comprising prospectus data in a human-readable format, wherein a first optical bar code is affixed to the printed financial prospectus, the first optical bar code storing a first portion of the prospectus data in an electronically-readable format to which the at least one electronically readable medium is affixed; and

~~a suitable device that reads~~ bar code scanner operable to read the first portion of the prospectus data from the first optical bar code. ~~the data contained in the at least one electronically readable medium.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein ~~the data is stored in the at least one electronically readable medium~~ the first optical bar code stores the first portion of the prospectus data in a summary format.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein ~~the data is stored in the at least one electronically readable medium~~ the first optical bar code stores the first portion of the prospectus data in a standardized format.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein;
a second optical bar code is affixed to the printed financial prospectus, the second optical bar code storing a second portion of the prospectus data in an electronically-readable format;

the first portion of the prospectus data is associated with a first category of information; and

the second portion of the prospectus data is associated with a second category of information, wherein the first category of information is different from the second category of information.

~~the data comprises at least one category of data and each category of data is stored in a separate electronically readable medium type.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the first portion of the prospectus data is encrypted in conjunction with being stored in the first optical bar code. ~~the data is stored in an encrypted format prior to storage in the at least one electronically readable medium.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the ~~at least one electronically readable medium~~ first optical bar code is affixed to a cover of the printed financial prospectus.

14. (Currently Amended) A printed prospectus, comprising:
at least one page having printed financial data; and
at least one ~~electronically readable medium~~ optical bar code containing an electronically readable version of at least a portion of the printed financial data, the at least one ~~electronically readable medium~~ optical bar code affixed to a page of the printed prospectus, ~~wherein the at least one electronically readable medium comprises at least one of an optical bar code, a magnetic strip, and an embedded computer chip.~~
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein affixing the ~~at least one electronically readable medium~~ first optical bar code to the printed financial prospectus comprises printing the ~~at least one~~ first optical bar code on the printed financial prospectus.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim + 21, wherein affixing the ~~at least one electronically readable medium~~ first magnetic strip to the printed financial prospectus comprises incorporating the ~~at least one~~ first magnetic strip into the printed financial prospectus.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim + 24, wherein affixing the ~~at least one electronically readable medium~~ first computer chip to the printed financial prospectus comprises ~~embedding the at least one embedded computer~~ incorporating the first computer chip into the printed financial prospectus.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the printed financial prospectus comprises two or more of the following plurality of data types: ~~data is selected from the group consisting of~~ security information, classification information, consolidated financial information, inventory information, dilution data, asset information, debt information, past performance information, management salary information, tax information, underwriter compensation information, and operations data - ; and

the first portion of prospectus data is determined based at least in part on a first one of the plurality of data types;

and further comprising:

determining a second portion of prospectus data based at least in part on a second one of the plurality of data types;

encoding the second portion of prospectus data as a second optical bar code;

and

affixing the second optical bar code to the printed financial prospectus.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 ~~wherein the summary format comprises selected portions of the financial prospectus data:~~ 1, further comprising reading data from the first optical bar code using a bar code scanner.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 19, further comprising writing the data read from the first optical bar code ~~stored in the standardized format~~ to a database.

21. (New) A method for accessing prospectus data, comprising:

determining a first portion of prospectus data, wherein a printed financial prospectus comprises the first portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;

storing the first portion of prospectus data in an electronically-readable format on a first magnetic strip; and

affixing the first magnetic strip to the printed financial prospectus.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
determining a second portion of prospectus data, wherein the printed financial prospectus comprises the second portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;
storing the second portion of prospectus data on a second magnetic strip; and
affixing the second magnetic strip to the printed financial prospectus.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein:
the first magnetic strip stores a first category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus; and
the second magnetic strip stores a second category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus, wherein the first category of information is different from the second category of information.

24. (New) A method for accessing prospectus data, comprising:
determining a first portion of prospectus data, wherein a printed financial prospectus comprises the first portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;
storing the first portion of prospectus data in a first computer chip, wherein the first computer chip is readable by a smart card scanner; and
affixing the first computer chip to the printed financial prospectus.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising:
determining a second portion of prospectus data, wherein the printed financial prospectus comprises the second portion of prospectus data in a human-readable format;
storing the second portion of prospectus data in a second computer chip; and
affixing the second computer chip to the printed financial prospectus.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein:
the first computer chip stores a first category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus; and

the second computer chip stores a second category of information associated with the printed financial prospectus, wherein the first category of information is different from the second category of information.